

MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education has been established by the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction to act in an advisory role to them in matters affecting the education of students in Montana.

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education shall advocate for greater cooperation among tribal, state and federal organizations, institutions, groups and agencies for the express purpose of promoting high-quality education and equal educational opportunity for Montana's Indian students.

ARTICLE I

Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education shall be to:

1. Advise the Board of Public Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction in educational matters affecting the education of Indian students, including accreditation, certification and teacher training;
2. Promote equal educational opportunity and improve the quality of education provided American Indian students throughout the State of Montana;
3. Advocate for, monitor and evaluate the implementation of Article X of the Montana Constitution for all educational agencies; and
4. Establish goals and measurable objectives to carry out the responsibilities of Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education and present an annual report to the Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction.

ARTICLE III

Goals

The Goals of Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education are:

1. Communication

Facilitate communication about Indian education among all stakeholders in Montana.

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education will develop strategies of communication to allow their respective constituents to provide input on their needs and issues and Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education members will be responsible for bringing these matters to Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education's attention for discussion and action.

2. Success in Schools:

Identify and disseminate research-based measurable criteria, both behavioral and academic, that indicate successful education for Montana's Indian children.

3. Evaluation:

Montana's pre-K-16 education system shall be evaluated on a continuing basis to determine its effectiveness in meeting the needs of Montana's Indian students and appropriate recommendations made to the Office of Public Instruction and Board of Public Education based on this evaluation process.

4. Data Analysis

Collect and analyze data to monitor accountability of educational agencies to address the needs of Indian education.

5. Leadership

Encourage and promote the active participation of Indian people, tribes and tribal organizations in the education process.

Encourage and promote Indian educational leadership in decision-making positions at all levels, including Indian Education for All, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council and other appropriate committees.

6. Budget and Legislative Review and Monitoring

Prepare budgetary recommendations to be submitted to the Office of Public Instruction for programs that affect Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education's goals and purposes.

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education members are charged with the responsibility to monitor and advocate legislation which potentially affects its constituency and keep its constituents apprised of issues and concerns to make appropriate recommendations.

BYLAWS OF MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

ARTICLE 1

Membership

The composition of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education shall consist of members who are representatives of Indian Education in the State of Montana. The membership shall be selected in consultation with Indian tribes, Indian organizations, major education organizations in which Indians participate and schools where Indian students and adults attend.

Board of Public Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction will jointly make appointments to Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education.

NOTE: Participation on the Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education is voluntary and tribes and organizations invited to participate may decline.

Each of the eight Montana tribal councils shall be invited to select one representative to represent its tribe on this council. Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education will seek participation by three urban Indian representatives from Great Falls, Billings, and Missoula.

Other nominations will be sought from organizations that have been identified as playing a key role in the education of American Indians in Montana. These organizations are:

- Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT) Minority Representative
- School Administrators of Montana (SAM)
- Indian Impact Schools of Montana (IISM) Board Representative
- Montana School Boards Association (MSBA) Indian School Board Caucus Representative
- Montana Association for Bilingual Education (MABE) Board of Directors
- Montana Wyoming Indian Education Association (MWIEA) Board
- Montana Wyoming Indian Education Association (MWIEA) Parent of the Year

Voting

The total voting membership will be eighteen and include:

- 8 - Tribal representatives from each Montana tribal council
- 3 – Urban Indian representatives
- 1 - Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT) Minority Representative
- 1 - School Administrators of Montana (SAM)
- 1 - Indian Impact Schools of Montana (IISM) Board Representative
- 1 - Montana School Boards Association (MSBA) Indian School Board Caucus Representative
- 1 - Montana Association for Bilingual Education (MABE) Board of Directors
- 1 - Montana Wyoming Indian Education Association (MWIEA) Board
- 1 - Montana Wyoming Indian Education Association (MWIEA) Parent of the Year

Ex-officio members to Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education shall be:

- Office of Public Instruction
- Board of Public Education
- Montana University System
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

ARTICLE 2

Officers

The officers of the Advisory Council shall consist of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary selected by the Council.

ARTICLE 3

Removal from Council

Council members will automatically lose membership with two consecutive absences of regularly called meetings without prior notice of absence as per Article 10, Section 3. A letter from the chairperson requesting the organization to name a new member will be sent to the sponsoring entity and absentee member.

ARTICLE 4

Amending the Constitution

An amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted by a vote of no less than one-half (1/2) of the Council at a regular or special meeting. Advance notice of the agenda containing a proposal to amend shall be distributed to all Council members at least 15 days in advance of the

meeting. All amendments shall be subject to review and approval by the Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction.

ARTICLE 5

Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be used as a guideline on all procedural questions not otherwise specifically stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Council.

ARTICLE 6

Terms and Duties of Officers

- Section 1. Chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary shall be elected from and by the Council at the summer meeting and shall serve for two years.
- Section 2. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Council. The chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The chairperson or designee will represent Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education at all Board of Public Education meetings and other meetings that are deemed important by the council.
- Section 3. The vice-chairperson shall assume all duties of the chairperson in the chairperson's absence.
- Section 4. The secretary or designee shall edit all minutes of the Council meetings and shall provide proper notice of all meetings scheduled. Regular quarterly meetings shall receive 15 days notice. The secretary shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Council.

ARTICLE 7

Terms of Members of the Council

The membership of Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education will consist of delegate members serving at the pleasure of their nominating tribe/organization until replaced by their sponsoring agency, or unless said member violates Article 3 of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education bylaws. Membership will be reaffirmed every five years.

Vacated positions will be reaffirmed or refilled by each entity/organization within a reasonable time period.

ARTICLE 8

Duties of Members

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education members will be responsible for carrying out the purposes and goals of the Constitution. Members shall bring information to the council and report back to their constituents.

ARTICLE 9

Committees and Appointments

Each member will be assigned to an appropriate working committee. Special and/or ad hoc committees may be established as necessary. Standing committees shall consist of Budget/Legislative, Communications/Public Relations and Evaluation/Data.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the three officers and two members appointed by the Chairperson. The Executive Committee shall:

1. Call special/emergency meetings as deemed necessary;
2. Have the authority to make emergency decisions on behalf of the Council;
3. Seek reaffirmation of decisions from the Council; and
4. Report back to the Council.

ARTICLE 10

Meetings

Regular Advisory Council meetings shall be called quarterly. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Council, the Board of Public Education or Office of Public Instruction in whatever form available.

- Section 1. A quorum for all Council meetings shall consist of seven members in attendance.
- Section 2. A quorum for all Executive Committee meetings shall consist of three (3) members.
- Section 3. Regular Council members will select an alternate representative to serve in their absence. Said alternate shall enjoy all the rights and privileges for the regular Council meeting. A response shall be returned prior to the meeting date to indicate whether the delegate, the alternate or no one will be representing the tribe/organization at the meeting.